

**Remarks/Arguments:**

With the present response, claims 23-30 and 52 are under examination, with claims 1-21 and 31-51 having been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

The Office Action states that claims 1-21 and 23-55 are pending, with claims 1-21 and 31-55 withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that "55" should be "51," as only claims 1-21 and 23-51 were pending at the time of the issuance of the Office Action.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the telephone interview conducted on March 16, 2009. During the interview, proposed amendments to claim 26 and new claim 52, as well as the applied references, were discussed.

**Claim Rejections**

Claims 23-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,352,553 to van der Berg et al. ("van der Berg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,676,697 to McDonald ("McDonald"). Of the rejected claims, claim 26 is independent.

Claim 26 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a rolled graft comprising a generally tubular graft flattened against itself and rolled onto itself into a cylindrical configuration. The graft includes a larger diameter main section and two smaller diameter sections at an axial end of said larger diameter section. A first smaller diameter section is rolled within a second smaller diameter section.

Support for the claim amendment may be found, for example, in original claims 22 and 26, and further in the specification, on page 6, para. [0032]. Regarding the language of the first smaller diameter section being rolled within the second smaller diameter section, the specification, referring to FIG. 10, discloses an exemplary embodiment of a "graft 10, which is tubular in shape" after rolling. Page 8, para. [0037] discloses an embodiment of a bifurcated graft, which includes limbs 13, 14 of the graft, as well as disclosure for rolling the graft. It is evident from FIG. 10 and para [0037], taken in conjunction with the remainder of the specification, that, as the graft is rolled, limb 14 is first rolled and then limb 13 is rolled around limb 14 such that limb 14 is rolled within limb 13. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the specification supports the new language of claim 26, and that no new matter has been added.

Van der Berg discloses a single lumen stent-graft in a folded and constrained configuration. Van der Berg, Col. 2, lines 28-29. McDonald discloses a graft that includes a

thin sheet 142 of a graft prosthesis 140 that is biased to roll up in a roll or tubular member. McDonald, Col. 8, lines 11-17. McDonald also discloses a graft prosthesis 110 that includes right and left legs 116, 118, respectively. Graft prosthesis 110 is disposed over a deployment catheter 160 such that right and left legs 116, 118 extend in opposing directions. See McDonald, FIG. 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither van der Berg nor McDonald, nor any combination of van der Berg with McDonald, provides the claimed feature of a first smaller diameter section that is rolled within a second smaller diameter section. Applicants therefore submit that the proposed combination fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Claims 23-25 and 27-30 ultimately depend from claim 26 and are allowable over the proposed combination of van der Berg with McDonald for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 26. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 23-30.

Claims 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over van der Berg in view of McDonald and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,628 to Wallace et al. ("Wallace"). Claims 28-30 ultimately depend from claim 26 and are allowable over the proposed combination for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 26. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 28-30.

#### **New claim 52**

New claim 52 recites, *inter alia*, a rolled graft comprising a generally tubular graft flattened against itself and rolled onto itself into a cylindrical configuration. The graft includes a larger diameter main section and two smaller diameter sections at an axial end of said larger diameter section. The two smaller diameter sections are disposed within the main section.

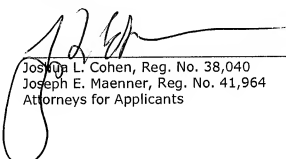
Support for this claim may be found in original claims 22 and 26, and further in FIG. 10, which, by way of example only, illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the claim in which smaller diameter sections 13, 14 are disposed within a main section 12. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

None of the applied references discloses the feature of a generally tubular graft flattened against itself and rolled onto itself into a cylindrical configuration, wherein two smaller diameter sections are disposed within a main section. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 52 is allowable over the applied references.

**Conclusion**

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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